

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 4-6, beginning with "This application claims priority to USSN ..." with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims priority to USSN 09/520,781, filed March 8, 2000, ~~pending now~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,689,866, issued February 10, 2004, and PCT/US00/06280, filed March 9, 2000, published, both of which claim the benefit of USSN 60/123667, filed March 9, 1999[[,]] ~~abandoned~~.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 17-20, beginning with "One type of sorting sequence is ..." with the following amended paragraph:

One type of sorting sequence is a signal sequence (also referred to as a signal peptide or leader sequence). The signal sequence is present as an amino terminal extension on a newly synthesized polypeptide chain. A signal sequence targets proteins to an intracellular organelle called the endoplasmic reticulum (ER).

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 4-14, beginning with "Clone 3352358-1 includes a 2341 nucleotide sequence ..." with the following amended paragraph:

Clone 3352358-1 includes a 2341 nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:9) (FIG. 5) with an initiation codon at nucleotides 215-217 and a TAA stop codon at nucleotides 2174-2176. This sequence between ~~residues~~ nucleotides 215 to 2173 defines an ORF encoding a protein (SEQ ID NO:10) of 653 residues (FIG. 5). The clone was identified by a polynucleotide fragment originating in fetal liver. Expressed sequences are also found in liver, including fetal liver, kidney, including fetal kidney, and thalamus. The PSORT program predicts that the 3352358-1 protein localizes in the plasma membrane with a certainty of 0.46. The SignalP program predicts that the protein has a signal peptide, with the most likely cleavage site between ~~residues~~ nucleotides 38 and 39, represented by the dash between the amino acids AAA-AS (*i.e.*, AlaAlaAla - AlaSer), or between ~~residues~~ nucleotides 41 and 42, represented by the dash between the amino acids ASA-GP (*i.e.*, AlaSerAla - GlyPro). The protein is predicted to be a